



Chillicothe High School

District: Chillicothe R-II

Enrollment: 652

Grade Range: 9-12



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The mission of Chillicothe High School is “to provide a comprehensive educational program encompassing prekindergarten through grade twelve and post-secondary education, meeting the needs of each student to insure each student is ready to begin and succeed in school and graduate with the skills necessary to continue with his or her education.”

Located 90 miles northeast of Kansas City, Chillicothe High School is a public secondary school in a rural, agrarian area in north central Missouri. Chillicothe, the county seat of Livingston County, has a population of 8,968. Although considered a progressive community, the city has experienced limited population growth in the last ten years. Chillicothe High School’s students reside in single-family homes, apartment complexes, rental properties, farmsteads, and rural residences, all representing various income levels. Several light industrial manufacturing plants are located within the 110 square miles of the school district.

The student population of the Chillicothe R-II School District is 60 percent city and 40 percent rural. The high school, with a 9-12 enrollment of 652 students, serves as the unifying entity for the community, which supported an \$11.2 million high school campus in 2000. This project included a donation of a \$2.4 million state-of-the-art performing arts center, which is a showcase for district performance groups and the Chillicothe Area Arts Council.

Diversified Programs to Meet Student Needs

The curriculum at Chillicothe High School is challenging and comprehensive, centered around the Show-Me Standards and developed with the goal of helping all students achieve. Teachers work to foster excellent communication skills in all students by focusing on writing across the curriculum, using portfolio development, and implementation of the writing process. A lab-oriented science curriculum integrates research and inquiry-based exploration of scientific issues. Students develop their performance skills in theater and vocal and instrumental music through the award-winning fine arts department. Technology enhances the curriculum in all areas, strengthening student performance.

“BEST PRACTICE IN ACTION...”

- ***CARE Team*** – The CARE Team, a faculty committee, identifies and intervenes in the education of at-risk students. Based on teacher referral, students are provided instructional guidance and emotional support.
- ***Curriculum Camps*** – Curriculum camps have been held in three core subject areas to assist teachers in writing and implementing curriculum.

The Chillicothe R-II School District has established as a long-term goal improving student achievement while preparing students for successful graduation and continuation of their ambitions. Toward that end, ten departments in the building offer college preparatory and dual credit courses through articulated agreements with North Central Missouri College and Central Methodist College. For students whose focus is on vocational education, a vocational-technical school draws students from a 40-mile radius and offers six career training programs. Additional programs, such as Upward Bound, Credit Recovery, and GED Options, provide encouragement for the non-academically oriented student to be successful and to earn a high school diploma.

Education beyond the Classroom

The goals of Chillicothe High School represent the belief that education exists in the school beyond the regular classroom and traditional textbook. Much of the school's tradition is embodied in students' academic, artistic, and athletic achievements through the school's many co-curricular programs. Programs such as A+ tutoring, cadet teaching, FACS, FFA, FBLA, the student-taught elementary self-assuredness program, and the community-focused Key Club, allow students to enhance their learning outside the classroom. In total, 90 percent of Chillicothe High School students are involved in the school's 52 athletic, civic, artistic, and academic co-curricular activities.

“WORDS OF WISDOM”

- (regarding class-within-class instruction) **“Although established to serve the special needs population, two teachers in a classroom daily has marked benefits for all students.”**
- **“Communicating data regarding student performance has been key to the ongoing and continued success of the student population at Chillicothe High School. Communicating broad student achievement to the general population has also provided more community support for the school and its programs.”**

School Climate that Fosters Excellence

Creating a school climate that fosters excellence is a collective effort of the entire faculty and staff at Chillicothe High School. The administrator oversees the total school environment, beginning each school day despite rain, sleet, or snow, by standing outside the building and greeting every student and staff member who enters the building. Every employee of the high school has an active role in the teaching process. From the custodian who provides immaculate halls and restrooms to the classroom teacher who facilitates excellent instruction, everyone is responsible for setting exceptionally high expectations in performance and behavior. The school motto, “Want respect? Give respect!” defines the expectation for everyone in the school community.

Clearly, Chillicothe High School students step up to the challenge to achieve excellence. The school has earned full accreditation from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, receiving distinction in performance by meeting 13 of 13 performance indicators on the Missouri Annual Performance Report. In addition, the school participates in the A+ program, based on curriculum development and strong student performance. In recent years, Chillicothe students have been designated “Missouri 100 Scholars,” and nearly 80 percent of graduating seniors have pursued post-secondary training.

Chillicothe High School takes a holistic approach to education to ensure that all students achieve success within and beyond the high school classroom.